



TUFOIC

TASMANIAN U.F.O. INVESTIGATION CENTRE

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YEAR TO DATE

It is disappointing to report that little information has come into the Centre from fellow Australian Groups in the first half of 1985. West Australia once again reports Nocturnal Lights with some similar cases in South Australia but otherwise no suggestion of any extra strange cases have come to our attention from the island to the north.

The Centre has now been in the Southern Tasmanian Telephone Directory for two years. The initial year saw little effect on the incoming reports to the Centre but in recent weeks the phone has run hot. A survey of callers has revealed how witnesses obtained our telephone number. About 50% checked the Telephone Directory or contacted Telephone Information. Roughly 15% in each case contacted the Police, rang because of a newspaper item, or had prior knowledge of the Centre's existence due to friends, previous sighting, Representative. The source of other cases have been Department of Aviation, Weather Bureau, University, plus a couple of Hoax calls.

The Centre so far in 1985 has had an increased number of reports to investigate. Contacts have come from a wide area of the state which is encouraging for the Executive. Telephone calls have been received from the Huon, Deloraine, Burnie, and East Coast. Three cases are still under investigation, Glenorchy, Richmond and Fingal (see later in Newsletter).

Howrah Affair.

The cause for many calls during May has been the repeated appearance of one or at times two red/orange lights seen moving over the Hobart Eastern shore suburb of Howrah. The first case that came to our attention was on April 30th. A large orange light was seen going slowly North west from Bellerive just to the north of Howrah. The light just seemed to go down suddenly and disappear. Several more witnesses contacted the Centre on May 3rd about 8.15pm when a large orange/red light passed just overhead in Baragon St Howrah and headed south over the Derwent River. The sighting was repeated two nights later except this time the light was seen to be stationary above some houses then moved up and away as if released.

Further reports came the next weekend May 11/12th, descriptions now mentioning falling pieces and flickering before the light just seemed to go out. A Hobart Radio Station ran an item after a call on UFOs over Howrah, but they also ran a response from the Centre as to a possible explanation for the lights. Further calls came into Talk Back Shows as more residents in Howrah noticed the orange drifting lights. Multiple calls on the sightings came again on May 17th and 19th but by now we felt sure that person or persons unknown were letting off some type of device on a fairly regular basis from the Howrah area. The falling pieces and flickering before disappearing suggested a balloon of some type with a light source below. The nights had been mainly calm so that the lights had travelled slowly or seemed to almost be stationary at times.

RADAR VISUAL OF 1979

There may have been a lack of sightings at the close of 1984 but the old cases that came to light were full of interest. This 1979 report was mentioned in the Advocate at the end of September that year but we were unable to locate the witness. Now six years later a chance remark from a witness on the North West Coast has led us to Mr Z. The report is described in his own words.....

"This sighting happened some six years ago and I cannot remember everything but I was First Mate of the ketch Lady Jillian on a passage from Whitemark to Launceston. We were about 10 miles ENE of Low Head. (time was 10pm on Sept 22nd) It was calm and clear and we had a new Furno Radar and with the novelty and close proximity of the coast I was keeping a good radar and visual lookout.

I saw the lights and straight away found it also had a radar echo which put the elevation below 25°. The object was off West Bluff and hovering with a steady white light shining onto the sea. As we got closer the reflection of the light filled the wheelhouse as well as lighting up the whole of the vessel. It also had a red and green light which I think were flashing. (paper item mentions that the lights were flashing)

The lights slowly started to move to the NNE, the white light went out and away it went. I had its bearing and distance on the radar and when it went off the radar at 23 miles I could calculate its speed at 250 nautical miles per hour. The sighting lasted 15 to 20 minutes".

GEORGETOWN SOUNDS

Members may recall the sightings from Georgetown in 1982 of an erratic red light that seemed to be accompanied by a high speed whistle/whizzing sound. (rather hard to describe?) The Centre recorded six events, although there were more sightings for which sufficient detail could not be obtained. The reports occurred from February to May but the bulk of the cases were in May.

All sightings were basically the same, the sound was heard, the witnesses went outside and observed a red light in the sky apparently at no great distance. The light moved across the sky, mostly from north to south, the accompanying sound would disappear as the light was lost to view although on some nights the same or similar sound was heard but no light seen. The witnesses were established residents of the town and were familiar with the nearby Comalco Works. On two occasions a tape recording was made of the sound and a copy was obtained by the Centre.

Expert comment from the United States suggested that some sort of burglar/fire alarm could be responsible for the noise. Other suggestions have been of some type of Industrial alarm.

Inquiries if anything have made the cases more puzzling. Another tape recording has been uncovered, this time from September of 1982. The case is a carbon copy of the earlier events which is why the reports are so puzzling. If the sound is an alarm of some type why are all the red lights seen? W was about to go to bed about 10.45pm when he heard an unusual noise coming from outside his Georgetown home. He took his Cassette recorder to the front door and noticed a red light low to the west and seemingly the source of the noise. He made a brief recording of the sound then went back inside as it was a very cold night. The noise stopped after a while.

Contact has been made with Comalco and Temco by the Centre but they are of the opinion that the noise does not emanate from their works. They also point out that residents would be familiar with works noises from the factories. Enquiries with the Police also failed to reveal anything, even investigation of faulty alarms in the shopping centre of the town was of much help. Two other mentions of red lights being observed were uncovered but due to the passage of time not enough detail (dates, etc:) could be obtained.

For the present things have come to a standstill on the Georgetown noise and light.

OCCUPANT SEEN, OLD CASE OF 1975.

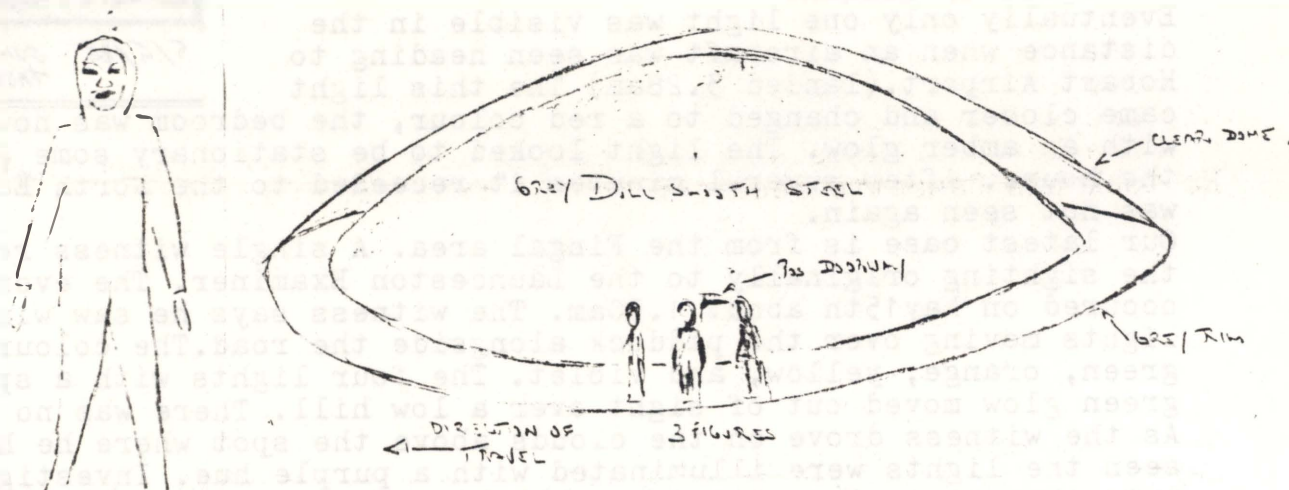
Early 1975 saw a spate of sightings in the Lake District especially around the Interlaken area. The witness to this Midlands occupant report saw an item in the Hobart Mercury some weeks after the sighting. This was the Lake Sorell case of February 26th that appeared in the news some weeks later, his occupant case must have occurred about the same date in February. He never came forward at the time as there seemed little point in telling the story as no one could do anything about it.

A was building a shed on a Midland property and the sighting occurred as he was driving up to his job from Hobart, it was a fine sunny morning around 7am. A heard a thumping noise and thought that something was wrong with his car, the sound was to continue through the sighting until the object had moved away.

At this point A was a bit surprised to see a long dome shaped object come up from behind his vehicle on the driver's side (South). A thought that whatever it was may land and just kept on driving to see what happened. The object had three figures on a rim that ran around the object which seemed to have a clear dome over it. The object was going a bit faster than A's 50kph and over something like 1/2kilometers of road moved slowly ahead. When A reached the turn off for the farm the object was now far enough ahead to cross the farm road and then headed north/north west and was lost to sight over hills in that direction.

The object was some 30m from the road and 20m above the paddocks. It looked big 20m wide and maybe up to 15m high. It was circular with a rim around the base of a dull grey dome that was encased by a clear dome that came down to the edge of the rim. There seemed to be a door set in the centre of the witnesses view.

The three figures that were seen were standing on the rim in front of the door. One was facing the direction of travel, the second and centre figure was facing towards A, whilst the third was back on and seemed to be looking into the door. The three figures although short by terrestrial standards looked to be normally proportioned. A did not notice feet or footwear, the edge of the rim may have blocked his view. The hands and face were the only uncovered portions of the body, they were wearing a brown one piece garment, close fitting. The figures reminded him of men on the way to work, watching the passing countryside. He felt that the second figure saw him but took no notice as if he'd seen cars/motorist etc: before. The figure that faced him had features that reminded him of the "Bhudda", longer than usual eyes, fatter nose, and maybe slightly wider mouth. A noticed no movement from the figures.



Occupant facing witness and sketch of object.

'UFO' seen landing in Fingal Valley

A UFO is claimed to have been seen in the Fingal Valley.

Mr Don Ives, music teacher and former bank manager, of Scamander, said yesterday that he saw a UFO while driving through the valley at 1.45am, Wednesday.

Mr Ives said he saw some type of craft, about the size of a small plane, with port-hole type lights of all colours.

"It was about half-a-kilometre away, down in a gully and appeared to be landing," Mr Ives said.

"It was drizzling at the time so I stopped

the car to ensure that it wasn't a reflection from my lights — the craft was making no sound at all.

"The object then disappeared below a hill but the illumination of its lights could still be seen."

Does he believe that what he saw was a craft from outer space?

"Unless the Civil Aviation proves otherwise — yes," Mr Ives said.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department said no reports coinciding with Mr Ives' claim had been received.

MERCURY 18/5/85

Three cases are still under investigation by the Centre. The first from Glenorchy dates from March 11th at 11.30pm. A single witness was sitting on his back door step appreciating the fine mild evening. He noticed a glow of white light passing above high hazy cloud. It was in view for 3/4 minutes as it travelled from the south then turned in the western sky towards the SW and disappeared over Mt Wellington. Checks with Hobart Airport, Dept of Aviation, and the Royal Australian Air Force have failed to reveal an explanation for the hazy flat light at this stage.

Our next case is from the Richmond area, this time on May 1st in the early hours of the morning. Our witness Mrs T was awoken by her dog scratching at the door, she let the dog out but then it barked on the verandah so she had to let it back in again.

On getting back into bed Mrs T noticed a large light, this was soon joined by a light that seemed to come from overhead, and a third light that came from the North East. Over the next couple of hours the lights moved about in a random pattern. There was always one light in view, at times the other lights had moved from her field of vision.

Eventually only one light was visible in the distance when an aircraft was seen heading to Hobart Airport. (landed 3.28am) The this light came closer and changed to a red colour, the bedroom was now lit up with an amber glow. The light looked to be stationary some 200m from the house. After several minutes it receded to the North East and was not seen again.

Our latest case is from the Fingal area. A single witness reported the sighting originally to the Launceston Examiner. The event occurred on May 15th about 1.50am. The witness says he saw winking lights moving over the paddock alongside the road. The colours were green, orange, yellow, and violet. The four lights with a spherical green glow moved out of sight over a low hill. There was no noise. As the witness drove on the clouds above the spot where he had last seen the lights were illuminated with a purple hue. Investigations into the case are continuing.

Write to TASMANIAN UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE at PO Box 99, Nth Hobart. Publications list available, copies past Annual Reports, Newsletters. Sightings Keith Roberts 236009.

**Member of the AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES - ACUFOS- **

Bright light puzzle

WHAT was the bright red light which hovered outside a Richmond house between 3am and 4am last Wednesday and did anybody else see it?

Investigator for Tasmania's Unidentified Flying Object Centre Mr Keith Roberts, of Hobart, would like to hear from anyone with an answer to either or both questions.

The man who made the report said he saw from his bedroom window three white lights, like big stars, moving erratically in the eastern sky.

One headed north and vanished; the other moved west and disappeared; and the third headed straight for the house of the witness.

It came in at tree-top level growing bigger in size and changing colour to red, stopping within 200 metres of the window.

The light radiated a reddish glow over furniture in the bedroom and stayed there for five minutes.

Mr Richards said investigations indicated it was not a plane, it was not the planet Venus, nor was it a satellite.

5/5/85 SUNDAY TASMANIAN